

**March 5, 2015 3:00 PM EST**  
Fairbanks Park  
Girl Scout Building (Upper Level)  
1110 Girl Scout Lane  
Terre Haute, IN 47807

### Attendance

**Board Members Present:**

Bicyclists- Jessica Hall  
Environmental Groups- Kevin Hardie  
Equestrians- Yvette Rollins  
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany  
Higher Education/Health- Pete Fritz (proxy)  
Hikers- Tim Calahan  
Mountain Bikers- Jeff Fetterer  
Off-Road Motorcyclists- Rick Dorfmeier  
Parks & Recreation Agencies- Melody Jones  
Pedestrians- Pat Martin  
Trail Support Groups- Angie Pool  
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls  
Water Trail Users- Joe Rozsahegyi

**Members Not Present:**

All Terrain Vehicle Users- Neil McCammack  
Snowmobilers- Len Neisler

**DNR Staff:**

Dale Brier- Outdoor Recreation  
Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation

**Guests:**

Roy F. Garrett- Stoney Lonesome MC  
Jay Jackson- ABATE of Indiana  
Gene Griffin- Griffin Bike Park  
Donna Griffin- Griffin Bike Park  
Clint Griffin- Griffin Bike Park  
Kara Kish- Vigo County Park

### Meeting Minutes

**Welcome**

Chair Yvette Rollins called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM. Rollins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Pat Martin for hosting.

**Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves including the new members and guests.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Rollins asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes. Rollins made a motion to approve the agenda. Melody Jones made a motion and Ryan Sweany seconded. Motion carried.

**Officer Elections**

Rollins asked Amy Marisavljevic to conduct the officer elections. Marisavljevic explained the role of both the chair and vice chair on the Trails Advisory Boards (TAB). She then called for nominations. Jones made a motion to have Rollins continue as chair and Angie Pool seconded. All voted in favor. Jones made a motion for Jeff Fetterer to serve as vice chair and Martin seconded. All voted in favor. Rollins and Fetterer will serve as chair and vice chair respectively in 2015.

## **Review and Approval of December 4, 2014 Minutes**

Rollins asked if there were any comments or amendments to the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes. No changes. Tim Calahan made a motion to approve the minutes as written and David Meihls seconded. Motion carried.

## **DNR Report**

Marisavljevic announced that Lisa Herber started with the Division of Outdoor Recreation on February 16. Herber filled the vacant Grants Coordinator position and came to the DNR from INDOT. Marisavljevic reminded the TAB that the deadline for Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grants is May 1. This year the maximum amount will be increased to \$200,000. The maximum amount was increased to offset the rising cost of building trails. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant applications are due June 1. If anyone is interested in applying for either an RTP or LWCF grant, please contact Bob Bronson for more information. Jones asked if the applications were available online yet, Brier reported they would be posted within the week.

Marisavljevic reported that the federal transportation bill, which provides money for RTP grants, is set to expire at the end of March. Since it was only a six month extension, only half the normal RTP appropriations are available. It is very possible the bill will get extended again or a new bill will be introduced. Two trail bills were introduced to the Indiana Legislature. The first outlined funding the trails maintenance fund with 10% of the Indiana sales tax collected on National Trails Day. It did not make it to the floor. However, the Greenways Foundation continues to work on trail maintenance funding and will be meeting with the Senate Appropriations Committee. Pool will provide more details in her user group report. The trail policy legislation has been introduced and continues to move forward. If passed, the Division of Outdoor Recreation would be tasked with compiling these guidelines. Finally, Marisavljevic reminded the TAB members that they are allowed and encouraged to voice support for or against legislation as individuals or as a representative of their respective trail user organizations. However, members may not lobby on behalf of the TAB.

## **Old Business**

### **Travel Reimbursement**

Travel reimbursement is available to all TAB members and proxies. It is a two step process to get travel reimbursement. The first step is getting into the state financial system. This is done by completing and submitting a W-9 and Direct Deposit Form. The second step is to sign and date a travel voucher at each meeting. Once in the system, members should get paid in about a month. The rate is \$0.44 per mile and overnight travel is allowed with some stipulations; contact Marisavljevic before making arrangements and she can give more details. Marisavljevic will provide all necessary paperwork and any questions should be directed to her.

### **RTP Grants- Upcoming**

Rollins is requesting that the DNR provide a synopsis of each RTP applicant as soon as possible. This would be an addition to the summary provided by DNR after the ranking has been completed. Rollins believes this would provide more background information before the TAB votes at the June meeting. Calahan reminded the TAB that they can make recommendations to the DNR about the criteria. Sweany stated if the TAB is interested in making recommendations for next year, they should familiarize themselves with the current criteria now. Rollins told the TAB members they can e-mail or talk to her with questions or concerns. Brier added that Bob

Bronson has an open door policy with the TAB regarding RTP and would be willing to answer any questions or concerns regarding the criteria.

## **New Business**

### **Griffin Bike Park Presentation**

Kara Kish, Director of the Vigo County Parks Department, stated that a 300 acre non-reclaimed, former strip mine located adjacent to their existing Fowler Park will be the site of the new Griffin Bike Park. The project was proposed by the Griffin family as a way to honor their late veteran son, Dale Griffin, who was an avid mountain biker and strongly believed in making a difference. The Griffin Family has partnered with Vigo County Parks Department to develop the unique property into Griffin Bike Park. Gene Griffin said the project started two years ago and has been a labor of love for the Griffin family and the Friends of Griffin Bike Park. The park will feature 17+ miles of trail for all ages and abilities. The park will also include a skills and terrain park featuring a pump track, dirt jumps, and dual slalom course. As a world-class venue, Griffin Bike Park will host a variety of national bike competitions in hopes of sustaining itself and stimulating the local economy. For more information, please visit: <https://griffinbikepark.com/>.

### **Trail Awards**

Marisavljevic noted that Rollins had passed along a call for nomination for the Greenways Foundation awards. Marisavljevic said her office frequently gets call for trail award nominations and she plans to forward these on to the TAB. She hopes they will pass it along to their respective organizations and hopefully more nominations will be submitted. Rollins believes Indiana has a number of great trail projects and volunteers that she'd like to see recognized nationally. Jones added that the Greenways Foundation also promotes the accomplishments of trail groups. She encouraged everyone to become a member and to let the Greenways Foundation know about their respective user groups trail contributions and accomplishments.

### **June Meeting**

Marisavljevic stated that there was no location for the June TAB Meeting as of yet. After some discussion, the group decided to visit Interlake State Recreation Area (SRA) where they can tour the new facility. Sweany volunteered to arrange some four-wheel drive vehicles to get TAB members on the trails. Calahan made a motion to have the meeting at Interlake SRA and Rick Dorfmeier seconded. Motion carried. Marisavljevic will follow up with Carman Jackson and send out details prior to the meeting.

## **User Group Reports**

**Bicyclists** – Jessica Hall reported that Bicycle Indiana and other bicycle organizations made a strong push to get a three foot passing law in Indiana this year. Unfortunately, none of the four bills will be passed this year. Hall and others will attend the National Bike Summit in Washington, DC March 9-13 to advocate for bicycling and represent Indiana. The Indiana Bike Summit will be March 19-20 at the Sheraton in Indianapolis. This year the focus will be on bicycle-friendly employers. Finally, Bicycle Indiana recently released the 2015 Resource Guide, which features touring and mountain bike events as well as information on bicycle safety, laws, and trails.

**Environmental Groups** – Kevin Hardie stated that trails and environmental issues, particularly litter, are often intertwined. The Friends of the White River (FOWR) will host their annual clean up on April 11 in Indianapolis. Hardie's goal this year is to clarify enforcement policies, such as illegal dumping, between different agencies. FOWR are joining other environmental groups in supporting an alternative greenway in response to the Mounds Reservoir proposal. The greenways proposal would preserve the environment while still stimulating the economy. Conversely, Mounds Reservoir would result in the loss of about 1/3 of Mounds State Park, a number of its trails, and a dedicated state nature preserve.

**Equestrians** - Rollins reported that the Hoosier Horse Fair will be held at the State Fairgrounds on April 10-12. They expect to attract 30-40,000 people. The Hoosier Backcountry Horsemen met with the US Forest Service last weekend. They have six scheduled workdays and also plan to help with several other events. The Indiana Trail Riders Association works closely with the DNR and local municipalities. Information on upcoming workdays can be found on each organization's respective website. Rollins also plans to register their workdays for National Trails Day and Public Lands Day. She encourages other TAB members to do the same. She also mentioned tying trails into Indiana's Bicentennial by organizing events or recognizing milestones. Finally, she encouraged members to support the Greenways Foundation and follow their progress through their e-mail newsletter. Marisavljevic will send a list of e-mail addresses to Pool to make sure all the TAB members receive this from now on.

**Four-Wheel-Drive Users** –Sweany announced that the Redbird SRA railroad crossing is now functional, users no longer need to go onto the road to use part of the property. A New Years Day Ride with chili cook-off was held at Redbird on January 1 and was well attended. The Indiana Four Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA) is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The group will host their annual Convention on March 20-22 in Nashville, Indiana. It will include off-roading on private property and a road rally. Finally, Sweany reported Indiana had five teams compete in the King of The Hammers in Johnson Valley Utah, the biggest off-road race in the United States.

**Health/ Higher Education-** Pete Fritz said the State Health Department and Health by Design will host five Active Living Workshops around the state. The free workshops will be selected from 15 applicants and promotes walking and bicycling. The Health Department will also fund Bedford and Madison's Bike and Pedestrian Plans this year.

**Hikers-** Calahan announced Conservation Day will be March 24 at the Statehouse. Although not a trail event, it does address land conservation and usage issues. Calahan stated that it has been helpful for him to better understand these issues as well as the legislative process. You can find more information about Conservation Day at the Indiana Conservation Alliance's website.

**Mountain Bikers** – Fetterer reported that snow biking continues to grow in Indiana. The first snow bike race in the state was held at night on February 27 at Southwestway Park in Indianapolis. The RTP project continues to make progress in O'Bannon Woods State Park. The Hoosier Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) has an upcoming meeting with Hoosier National Forest to talk about connectivity with Brown County State Park via Yellowwood State Forest.

Finally, Fetterer announced the Death March, an adventure race the combine mountain biking and cemetery locations, will be March 14 in the Hoosier National Forest.

**Off-Road Motorcyclists** – Rick Dorfmeier said the off-road motorcycle community is constantly trying to address issues of recruiting younger members, getting people registered, improving access, and supporting state riding areas. One of the particular issues the community continues to struggle with is land use and being a part of the multi-use community. Many senior off-road motorcyclists attended the Motorcycle Expo in February where they tried to attract young riders to the sport.

**Parks and Recreation Agencies** - Jones had no new information from the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA). She stated that every year Westfield has an event in conjunction with National Trails Day. She encouraged other organizations to organize and register an event. The Monon is on schedule to be complete through Westfield, to Sheridan, by 2016. The Midland Trace Trail, which will connect to Noblesville, will be completed this year. Currently, Westfield has 80 miles of paved trails, 10 of which are in the new Grand Park. The city also hosted their first winter event, Melt the Trail, on February 14. Over 50 people ran the 5k race, which showcased Westfield's dedication to plowing their trails and having them open all year round.

**Pedestrians** – Martin stated that Paul Dresser Wabash River Trail, which the TAB visited earlier, is under construction and will be completed in 3 phases. The first phase will start this year and Terre Haute hopes the whole 4.2 miles will be completed by late 2016. A large majority of the project will be converting industrial and Brownfield areas into trail. Art Spaces will host a public design charrette on March 31- April 2 as the next phase of Terre Haute's "Turn to the River" plan. The plan focuses on reactivating space along the river using art and trails, and will feature a pedestrian promenade downtown. Indiana State University will dedicate their new stadium April 15-17. When completed in a few years, all three of these projects will combine to create essentially a 6+ mile river walk.

**Trails Support Groups** – Angie Pool reported the Greenways Foundation Luncheon was held February 24. The luncheon is the organization's only fundraiser and also honored a number of award winners from across the state and trail disciplines. Pool stated the Greenways Foundation continues to advocate for trails maintenance funding. She passed out their white paper that outlines the need for funding and identifies possible sources. Members of the Greenways Foundation met with members of the Senate Appropriations Committee this morning and presented their case. Pool also mentioned the Greenways Foundation grants are available, including a \$1,000 grant to allow friends groups to become a 501 c3. The grants are made possible through the sale of the Indiana trails license plates. Finally, the Greenways Foundation has a new director, Allyson Pumphrey Mitchell. The Cardinal Greenway will host their annual 5k on April 25.

**Users with Disabilities**- Meihls announced that March is Disability Awareness Month. He stated this is a good time to start thinking about how organizations and communities can be inclusive for all types of trail users.

**Water Trail Users**- Joe Rozsahegyi updated the TAB that the Kankakee River is about to submit their application for National Water Trail designation. Dan Plath has been working with

Farm Bureau and residents along the river to educate them about the designation. So far, they have only received support, including 100 support letters from local agencies and organizations. Rozsahegyi reported that Quiet Sports Area of the Boat, Sport, and Travel Show had a disappointing showing this year. Next year's the area will only be one weekend and the goal is to have every different discipline represented. He would like to see the area expand and succeed through having TAB member organizations come, their partner retailers, and a strong lecture and demonstration schedule.

### **Announcements**

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Opening Day for Trails- March 28  
Bike Month- May  
Bike to School Day- May 6  
Bike to Work Day- May 15  
American Trails International Symposium- May 17-20, Portland, OR  
Indiana and National Trails Day- June 6  
Miracle Ride and Race (Benefitting Riley Hospital)- June 6-7, Lawrence County Park  
The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience- September 19-20, 2015, Fort Harrison State Park  
The Mid American Trails and Greenways Conference- October 25-28, Des Moines, IA

### **2015 Meeting Dates**

June 25, 2015- Interlake State Recreation Area, Lynnville, IN  
September 3, 2015- Cardinal Greenway in Muncie, IN  
December 3, 2015- Indianapolis, IN

**Adjournment** - Rollins again thanked Martin for hosting. She called for a motion for adjournment. Fetterer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jones seconded. Motion carried. Adjournment was at 5:11 PM.